



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Atty Docket No. HYZ-041 (47508-189)

Serial No.: 08/467,397)
Filed: 6 June 1995)
Inventors: Frank *et al.*)
Title: OLIGONUCLEOTIDES SPECIFIC)
FOR HEPATITIS B VIRUS)

Group Art Unit: 1805
Before the Examiner:
B. WEISS

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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MQJ
6/25/97
(NB)

RESPONSE TO THE OFFICE ACTION MAILED 29 NOVEMBER 1996

Hon. Assistant Commissioner for Patents:

This communication is responsive to the Office Action mailed 29 November 1996. Please reconsider the pending claims of the above-identified patent application in view of the following amendments and remarks. This response is accompanied by a petition for a three month extension of time and accordingly will be due on 29 May 1997.

AMENDMENTS

Please amend claim 1 as follows.

1. (Twice-amended) A synthetic oligonucleotide complementary to a portion of the HBV RNA secondary structure in the epsilon region of the HBV genome, which oligonucleotide inhibits HBV replication. [and having a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS: 1-15, 17, 19-31, and 42-48.]

Please cancel claims 2-7, 21-35, 37-39 and 51-206.

Please add the following new claim 225.

-- 225. The oligonucleotide according to claim 1 having a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS: 7-19 and 45. --

REMARKS

Claims 1, 8-20, 36, 40-51 and 207-224 remain pending. Claim 1 has been amended to specify oligonucleotides complementary to a portion of the HBV RNA secondary structure in the epsilon region of the HBV genome which inhibit HBV replication. New claim 225 has been added to claim the specifically disclosed